

SHADOW

Perhaps separate vacations are in order, she said. Her husband of twenty-five years sits in the shallows, watches her paddle in the mild surf and thinks, Yes: perhaps Separate is in order — to formalize the accretion of distance. He stands, ready to return to the beach.

There's a shadow under the water near his wife. The shadow moves — flies; it circles her. Very frightened, he yells. She shakes the water from her face and just looks at him. Shrill, he shouts again, then without waiting for a response, without thinking, he runs to her. The shape turns away, then banks in, toward the woman. He reaches his wife, grabs her arm and they flounder to the beach.

Standing on the sand together, breathless, they watch the shadow slowly arc seaward. Close, they embrace, hesitate, then as one, push apart.

— Robert Nagler

Oxford PA

FORCE OF WIND TABLE: SEA CRITERION

— Cf. Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland, Scotland

0	Calm	Sea like a mirror.
1	Light Air	Ripples with the appearance of scales are formed but without foam crests.
2	Light Breeze	Small wavelets, still short but more pronounced, crests have a glassy appearance and do not break.
3	Gentle Breeze	Large wavelets. Crests begin to break. Foam of glassy appearance. Perhaps scattered white horses.
4	Moderate Breeze	Small waves, becoming longer; fairly frequent white horses.
5	Fresh Breeze	Moderate waves, taking a more pronounced long form; many white horses are formed. (Chance of some spray.)
6	Strong Breeze	Large waves begin to form; the white foam crests are more extensive everywhere. (Probably some spray.)

7	Near Gale	Sea heaps up and white foam from breaking waves begins to be blown in streaks along the direction of the wind. (Spindrift begins to be seen.)
8	Gale	Moderately high waves of greater length; edges of crests break into spindrift. The foam is blown in well marked streaks along the direction of the wind.
9	Strong Gale	High waves. Dense streaks of foam along the direction of the wind. Crests of waves begin to topple, tumble and roll over. Spray may affect visibility.
10	Storm	Very high waves with long overhanging crests. The resulting foam in great patches is blown in dense white streaks along the direction of the wind. Or the whole surface of the sea takes a white appearance. The tumbling of the sea becomes heavy and shocklike. Visibility is affected.
11	Violent Storm	Exceptionally high waves. (Small and medium sized ships might be for a time lost to view behind the waves.) The sea is completely covered with long white patches of foam lying along the direction of the wind. Everywhere the edges of the wave crests are blown into froth. Visibility affected.
12	Hurricane	The air is filled with foam and spray; sea completely white with driving spray. Visibility very seriously affected.

FORCE OF WIND TABLE: LAND CRITERION

— Cf. Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland, Scotland

0	Calm	Calm, smoke rises vertically.
1	Light Air	Direction of wind shown by smoke drift, but not by wind vanes.
2	Light Breeze	Wind felt on face, leaves rustle; ordinary vane moved by wind.